

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

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SUBJECT Increased Pressure on Czech Farmers to
Join the United Agricultural Cooperative

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1. In the past few months pressure on farmers to join the United Agricultural Cooperative (Jednotna Zemedelska Druzstva) has increased. Those farmers who do not join are discriminated against until they yield.
2. An example of such pressure occurred during the electrification of the village of Vyskovice near Vimperk (Winterberg - N50/Q46). After the electric lines had been installed, the inhabitants were informed that only members of the cooperative would be given electric service.
3. Non-members of the cooperative receive no clothing coupons or chemical fertilizers; they cannot purchase agricultural machinery and are not allowed to do their own slaughtering.
4. Monthly production quotas are set up for farmers, and those who do not meet them are subject to fines and confiscation of their machinery by the District National Committees. Recently, most of the farmers in the village of Svihov near Klatovy (Klattau - N50/L00) had their machinery taken away because of their failure to meet their quotas. The confiscated machinery was given to other villages which farm on a cooperative basis. This act aroused much resentment, even among the Communist farmers.
5. Confiscated farms of Sudeten Germans, supposedly given to Czech farmers, have been nationalized. Farmers who had believed that they owned the land now find themselves working as employees of the state at wages not sufficient to support their families.

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